

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 ARA-06 DHA-02 /095 W

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P R 121558Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6461

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SS, SP

SUBJECT: SAHARA ROUNDUP

REF: RABAT 4282

SUMMARY: GOM REJECTS QUADRIPARTITE TALKS, WHILE THEORETICALLY HOLDING DOOR AJAR FOR TALKS ON ITS CONDITIONS IN NEW YORK. ANXIETY OVER SPANISH-ALGERIAN CONTACTS CONTINUES. GOM CONTINUES ACCELERATE FLU ACITIVITIES AND ROLE. MILITARY SITUATION REMAINS QUIET. GOM APPEARS TO BE HOPING ICJ AND UNGA PROCESSES WILL NOT FORECLOSE POLITICAL OPTIONS. END SUMMARY

1. DIPLOMATIC. GOM BROKE ITS PUBLIC SILENCE SEPTEMBER 11 ON SPANISH-PROPOSED SAHARA NEGOTIATIONS UNDER UN AUSPICES BY  
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BACK-GROUNDING AFP IN NEW YORK TO EFFECT THAT GOM CONTINUES TO

OPPOSE IDEA OF QUADRIPARTITE TALKS. SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN, WHICH DISPLAYED STORY PROMINENTLY, ADDED EDITOR'S NOTE THAT THIS "CLARIFICATION" SHOULD BE CONSIDERED "RESPONSE" TO AUGUST 22 GOS MININFO STATEMENT. MEANWHILE, OPPOSITION ISTIQLAL L'OPINION'S SEPTEMBER 11 STORY ON AFP REPORT CITES "WELL-INFORMED" SOURCE AS SAYING THAT GOM INSTEAD PROPOSING EXPANDING CONFERENCE TO SIX, TO INCLUDE TUNISIA AND LIBYA.

2. ON HIS SEPTEMBER 5 RETURN FROM 7TH SPECIAL SESSION, FONMIN LARAKI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH LIMA DECLARATION ON SAHARA. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO SECYGEN IN NEW YORK ABOUT "CONTACTS" WITH INTERESTED SAHARA PARTIES UNDER UN AUSPICES. LARAKI DID NOT COMMENT PUBLICLY ON GOM POSITION ON QUESTION, HOWEVER. FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE HAS EXPRESSED VIEW TO US THAT GOM CONTINUING TO PURSUE IDEA OF TALKS ON GENERAL PREMISE THAT IT WOULD BE "GOOD TO GET SOMETHING GOING," BUT FRENCH HERE NOT SURE HOW MOROCCAN TERMS MAY BE EVOLVING FROM EARLIER PRECONDITIONS (RABAT 4102). WE NOTE SPANISH PESSIMISM ON LIKELIHOOD OF QUADRIPARTITE TALKS (MADRID 6297).

3. PRESS HAS PLAYED UP TUNISIAN FONMIN CHATTI'S RECENT TRIP TO MADRID, FOLLOWED BY HIS TALK WITH GOM AMBASSADOR IN TUNISIA. LE MATIN SUGGESTED TRIP AND SUBSEQUENT MEETING CONNECTED, IMPLYING TUNISIAN GO-BETWEEN ROLE. GOM'S SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY MAP MEANWHILE CARRIED ITEM FROM TUNIS CONTAINING CHATTI DENIAL THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED RELEASE OF SPANISH PRISONERS IN HANDS OF F POLISARIO WHILE IN MADRID.

4. GOS FONMIN CORTINA'S TRIP TO ALGIERS HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF PREDICTABLE NEGATIVE PRESS COMMENTARY HERE, BOTH SEMI-OFFICIAL AND OPPOSITION. L'OPINION CALLED IT A "LAST CONSULTATION BETWEEN ALLIES" BEFORE UNGA OPENING. IT CITED VIEW OF "MANY OBSERVERS" THAT SPAIN, "IN ITS PANIC," MAY BE PLANNING CONNIVANCE WITH ALGERIA" UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF AUTONOMY " IN SAHARA WITH F POLISARIO ASSUMING MAJORITY ROLE. CITING F POLISARIO RELEASE OF 13 CAPTURED SPANISH SOLDIERS DURING CORTINA VISIT, ARTICLE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT BETTER PROOF THERE COULD BE OF ENTENTE, COOPERATION, AND SUPPORT BY ALGERIAN PRESIDENT TO HIS "COLONIALIST GUEST." LE MATIN SNEERED AT RELEASE OF "PRISONERS," WHOM IT DESCRIBED AS DESERTERS WHO HAD FLED TO ALGERIA AND FALLEN INTO CONFIDENTIAL

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F POLISARIO HANDS.

5. INTERNAL. OPPOSITION PAPERS HAVE DEMONSTRATED NERVOUSNESS AT IDEA OF GOM JOINING ANY TALKS FORUM IN WHICH ALGERIANS INCLUDED, WHETHER FOUR OR SIX-SIDED. BOTH USFP'S AL MOUHARRIR AND ISTIQLAL'S L'OPINION HAVE REACTED NEGATIVELY TO THESE REPORTS IN RECENT DAYS, SHOWING CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY OF A WEAKENING OF GOM'S NEGOTIATING POSITION.

6. FLU ACTIVITIES. GOM'S SAHARA FRONT ORGANIZATION FLU ANNOUNCED IT WILL HOLD ITS FIRST "CONGRESS" IN AGADIR STARTING SEPTEMBER 13. AT SEPTEMBER 4 PRESS CONFERENCE, FLU SPOKESMAN SAID THAT HITHERTO "COVERT" ORGANIZATION HAD DECIDED TO SURFACE TO CARRY ON STRUGGLE. SPOKESMAN MENTIONED THAT KING HAD ORDERED GOM TO PLACE ITS ASSETS AT FLU DISPOSAL. FLU ALSO PROMISED THAT ITS FORCES WOULD DELIVER BLOWS NOT ONLY AGAINST "COLONIALISTS" BUT "THEIR VALETS," AN APPARENT THREAT TO TARGET F POLISARIO AND PUNS ELEMENTS IN FUTURE.

7. MILITARY ACTIVITIES: NO MILITARY INCIDENTS REPORTED ALONG SAHARA BORDER. KING, ACTING IN HIS CAPACITY AS SPIRITUAL LEADER, EXEMPTED TROOPS IN SOUTH FROM RAMADAN FASTING, SOMETHING HE HAD NOT DONE LAST YEAR. (COMMENT: STEP SEEMS DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO IMPROVE TROOP MORALE, WHICH REPORTEDLY LOW.).

8. COMMENT: CURRENT GOM STRATEGY APPEARS TO BE TO KEEP DOOR SLIGHTLY AJAR ON NEW YORK TALKS IN EVENT MOROCCAN CONDITIONS ACCEPTED TO SUFFICIENT DEGREE, WHILE AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS IN ICJ AND UNGA PROCESSES. ALTHOUGH QUADRIPARTITE FORMULA REJECTED, THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER FORMAT, SUCH AS SIX-POWER TALKS, SEEMS TO REMAIN. KING, WE HAD BEEN TOLD, HAD NOT WANTED TO ISSUE DENIAL OF GOS AUGUST 22 STATEMENT (RABAT 4102), AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHETHER DENIAL NOW PROMPTED BY SUBSEQUENT PROLIFERATION OF RUMORS OF FAVORABLE MOROCCAN ATTITUDE ON TALKS OR AS A NEGOTIATING TACTIC. PROBABLY BOTH CONSIDERATIONS AT PLAY. IN MEANTIME, GOM'S BEHIND-SCENES EFFORTS TO MARSHALL INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT NO DOUBT ALSO CONTINUE TO AIM, IN SHORT TERM, AT FORESTALLING PREEMPTIVE MOVES IN AL AYOUN (AS REFLECTED IN GOM SATISFACTION WITH SECTION OF LIMA DECLARATION CALLING ON SPAIN TO REFRAIN FROM "UNILATERAL MOVES.") IN LONGER TERM, GOM UNDOUBTEDLY HOPING THAT ICJ AND UNGA PROCESSES WILL NOT FORECLOSE POLITICAL OPTIONS.  
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THERE MANY CARDS TO BE PLAYED BY ALL SIDES IN COMING DAYS, HOWEVER, AND MAINTENANCE KING'S CREDIBILITY WILL REQUIRE STRONG RESPONSE TO THREATS OF SLIPPAGE OF GOM'S POSITION, WITH MILITARY MOVES HELD AS LAST RESORT.  
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